

MVSD

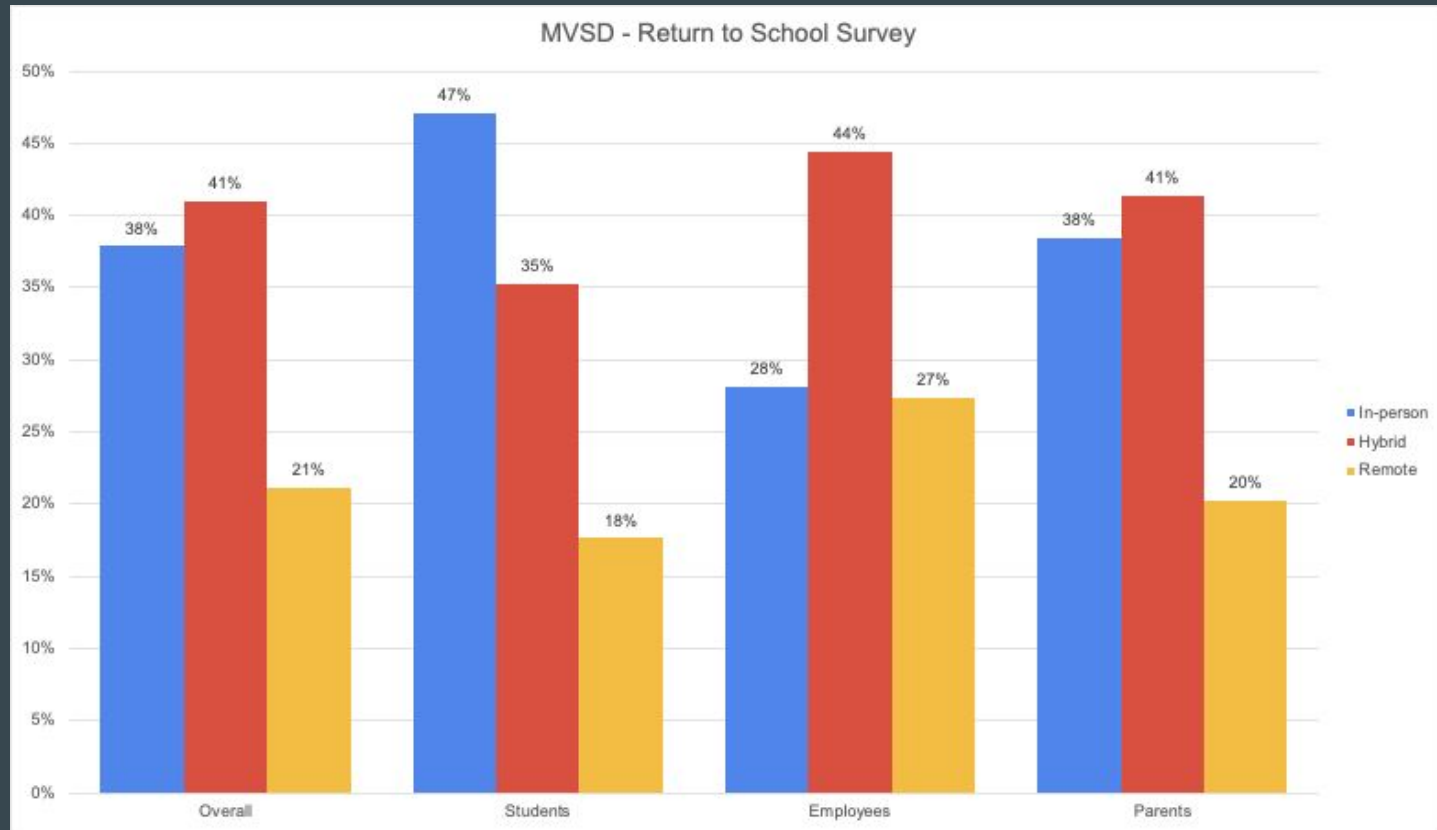
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Phased-in Approach to Safely Reopening Schools
July 23, 2020

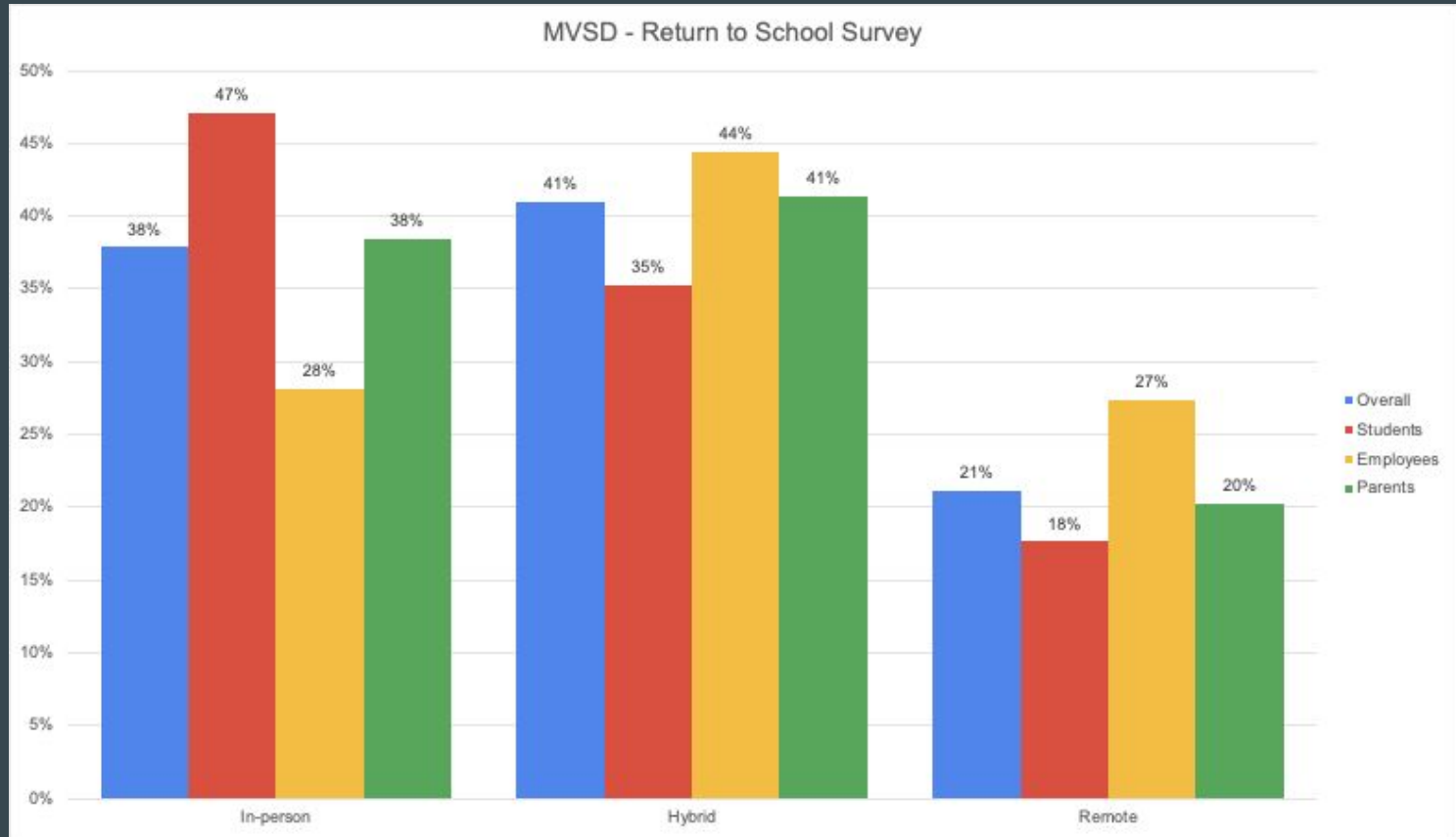
A Review of the Data

- A survey was sent to employees on Friday, 7.10.2020
- The same survey was sent to parents and appropriate student groups on Monday, 7.13.2020
- Approximately **2,200 responses**
 - Andover (overall) = approx. 160
 - Parents = approx. 120
 - Employees = approx. 30
 - Students = approx. 10
 - MVSD (overall) = approx 2,040
 - Parents = approx. 1,340
 - Employees = approx. 360
 - Students = approx. 340
- Approximately **880 open responses**
 - All of these responses have been read
 - The overwhelming majority of these responses are supportive and thankful for the chance to be heard
 - As you can imagine, responses also vary in political leanings and thoughts on reopening schools

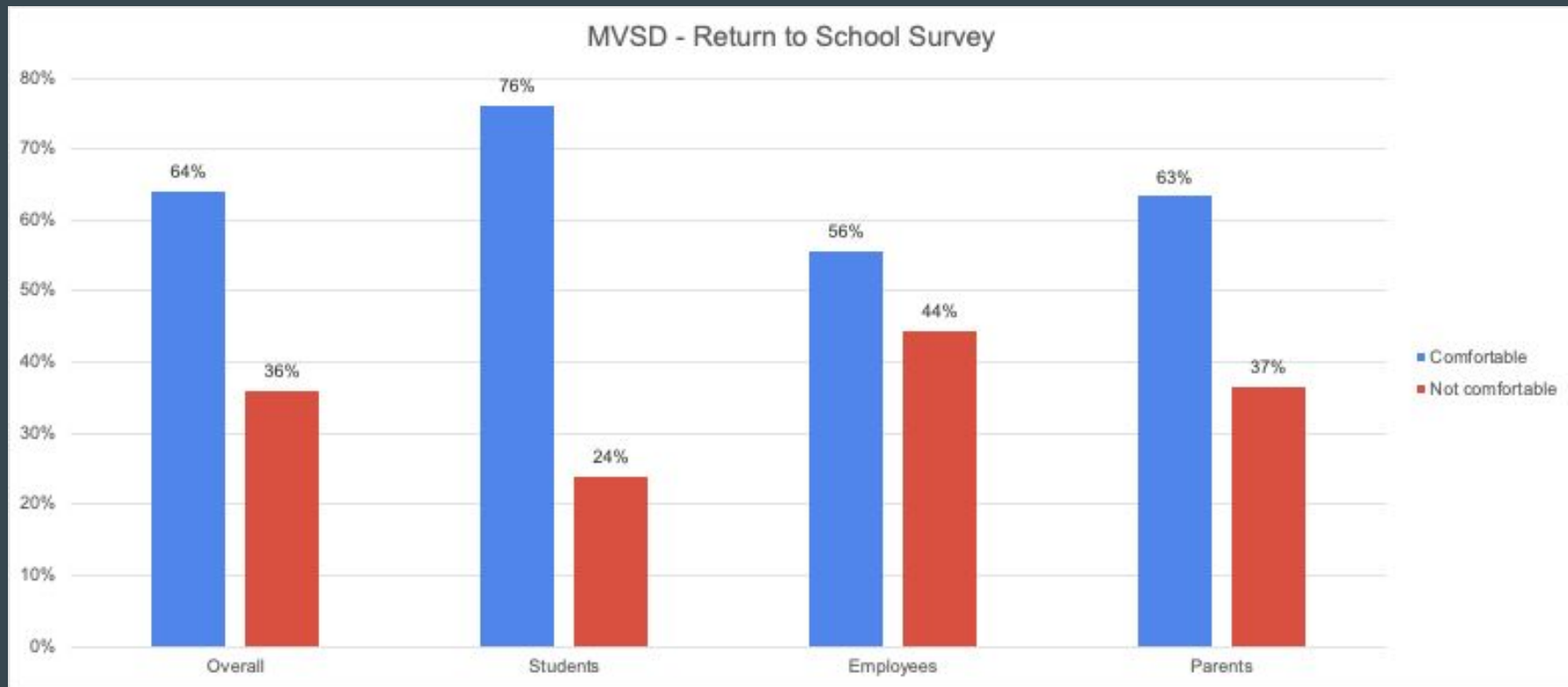
Summary Results - MVSD - *model preference*



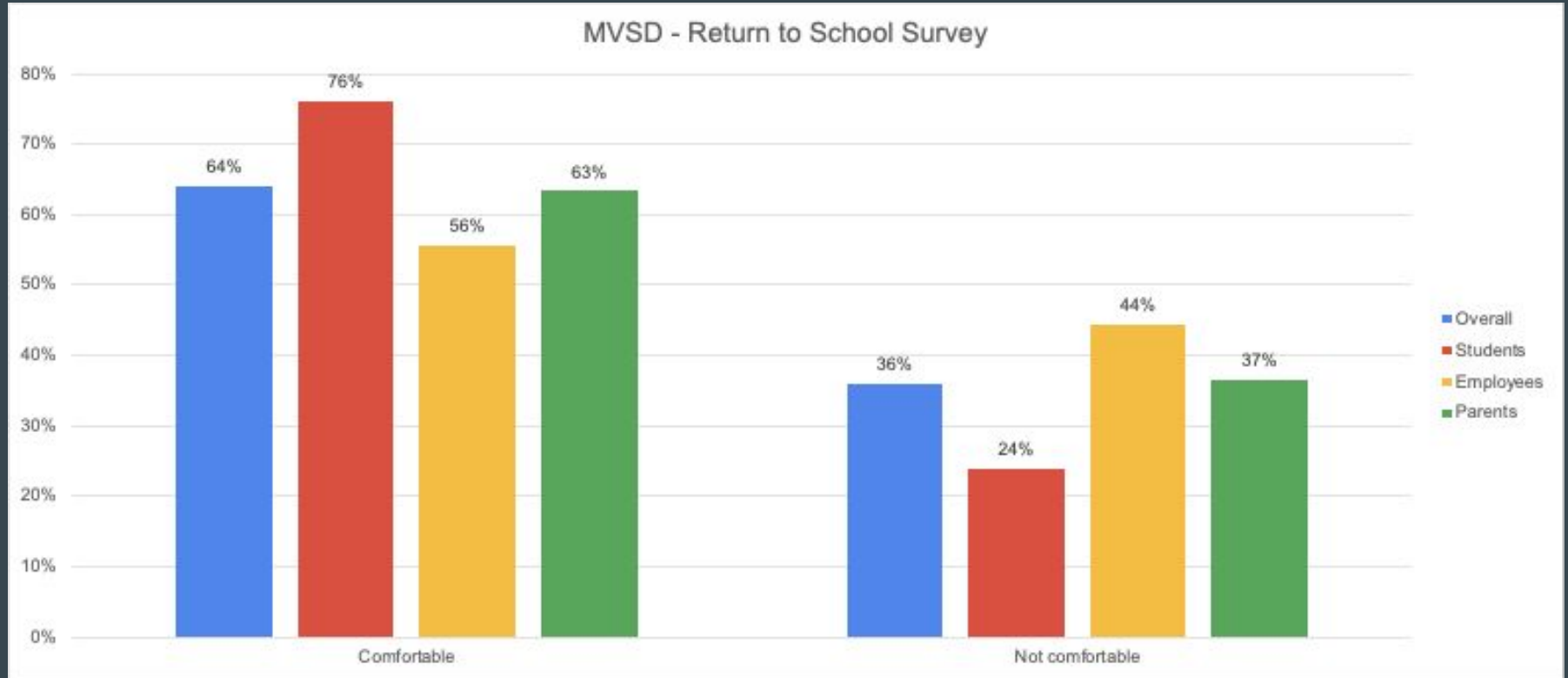
Summary Results - MVSD - model preference - *stakeholder group*



Summary Results - MVSD - comfortability returning to school - *stakeholder group*



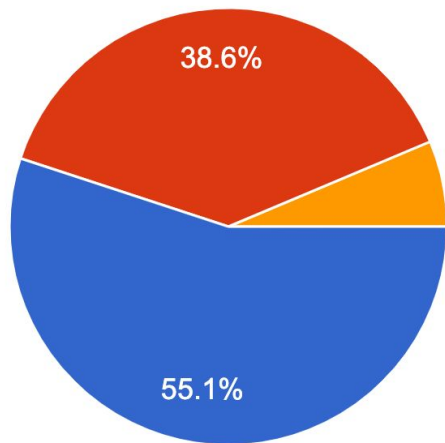
Summary Results - MVSD - *comfortability returning to school*



Summary Results - MVSD - *transportation option*

Parents only. Assuming there is an in-person element to learning next year, please indicate the transportation method you would choose for your student(s).

1,653 responses



- Family provided. Either a family member or the student will provide transportation.
- District provided.
- N/A - my student lives in the walk-zone (some schools do not have a walk-zone).

MVSD - Reopening Framework

Sources of information / guidance:

- Feedback from MVSD parents, students, and employees
 - With further feedback opportunities to come
 - We're hopeful a framework will help to lend appropriate direction to these ongoing conversations
- New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE)
- School Transition Reopening and Redesign Taskforce (STRRT)
- Governor Chris Sununu
- NH State Epidemiologist - Dr. Benjamin Chan
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS)
- Regional and Cohort Districts and Schools

Proposed OPTIONS for MVSD Parents

Caveat - administration still needs to collaborate with teacher and support staff unions to formalize and finalize these options

- **REMOTE Option** - to run concurrently with **HYBRID** (there are versions within this option...see [slide #18](#))
- **HYBRID Option** - with the intent to eventually open **IN-PERSON** 5-days/week
 - Beginning on 9.9.2020 - MVSD schools will offer parents a **HYBRID** option with the intention of moving this option to **fully IN-PERSON** on *Tuesday, October 13 2020*
 - The October date was **amended** to the beginning of second semester (late January 2021)
- **Rationale** for these options:
 - Approx. 80% of respondents indicated a preference for an “at-school” option (fully in-person or hybrid)
 - Beginning in a hybrid model allows schools to:
 - Work with students in smaller groups to practice safety and health protocols
 - Allows for increased physical distancing
 - Can monitor state and regional COVID cases during initial reopening (any surges?)
 - Responsive to stakeholder feedback
 - The MVSD has devices to support these options
- **Option DETAILS** on subsequent slides...stay tuned!

Modified School Calendar (2020-2021)

- Wednesday, August 26 - teachers return to schools
- Monday, August 31 - Friday, September 4 - schools offer small group OPEN HOUSES for parents and students (virtual options for REMOTE)
- Tuesday, September 8 - schools are closed to allow towns to use local school buildings for primary voting
 - August 26 - September 8 - school personnel engage in professional development, continue to prepare for remote and hybrid learning, and will learn more about COVID-19 symptoms and school / district protocols
- Wednesday, September 9 - Remote and Hybrid learning for students begins

Throughout the Calendar

- Strategic “cooling-off” dates - Predetermined fully **remote** days for all students
 - 10.8, 11.3, 11.23 & 24, 12.21 & 22 (more dates if necessary)
 - 2.1.2021 (potentially)

Modified School Day (2020-2021)

- To provide teachers with time to work with **REMOTE** and **HYBRID** students and families (based on a proposed REMOTE version...this could be adjusted):
 - The physical school day at each school (for students) will be **1-hour shorter** (*based on the teacher's contractual day*)
 - PM **release** times (for students)
 - MVMS - 1:41pm
 - MVHS - 1:48pm
 - MVLC - 2:33pm
 - BES, LES, SES, WES - 2:45pm
 - PES - 2:15pm
 - Arrival and Dismissal procedures will be modified at each school to ensure students are not grouping together
 - If students are involved in extracurricular activities (including sports), there will be adult supervision provided in a physically-distanced space prior to these activities
 - Each day - REMOTE learning resources will be further planned and uploaded
 - Remote students may be required to attend brief student/teacher connections (held remotely)

MVSD Transportation (2020-2021)

- Parents are **ENCOURAGED** to provide their own AM and PM transportation
- Survey data indicates approx. 39% of parents intend on using District provided transportation
 - Parents **MUST** contact their local school by Friday, August 14 to confirm these plans
 - District resources are relatively fixed and we must be able to plan accordingly
- **FACE COVERINGS / MASKS** on buses will be **REQUIRED**
 - This is non-negotiable
 - Students will be physically-distanced on buses
 - Siblings are the **ONLY** students who can sit together
 - Other than siblings, 1-student per seat in a specific arrangement
 - There will be no moving allowed on buses
 - Inability / unwillingness to comply disqualifies students from District transportation
- Buses will have **hand sanitizer**
- Buses will be **cleaned / sanitized** on a daily basis

First **RECONSIDERATION** date (amended plan)

- Stated **GOAL** of combining **HYBRID** groups and resuming 5-day/week fully **IN-PERSON** learning commencing in the second semester (late January 2021)
- This determination will be made and communicated in advance of that date (by early January)
- Circumstances will have to indicate moving to fully in-person is **safe** and **practicable**
 - Are face covering and physical-distancing protocols working at our schools (are students compliant)?
 - Status of positive COVID cases in NH and our region
 - Ongoing medical guidance
 - Ongoing state-level guidance
 - Regional and cohort schools
 - What do our families want?
 - What option best serves students?
- Additional reconsideration dates will be scheduled based on circumstances

If fully **IN-PERSON** is possible *(starting second semester)*

- Parents / students who were in **HYBRID** (which will transition to **IN-PERSON**), can opt for **REMOTE** or parents / students can change from **REMOTE** to the new **IN-PERSON** option
 - Prior to the reconsideration date, parents / students wishing to change initial models / modes will be handled on a case-by-case basis
- **During this pandemic - fully REMOTE will remain as an option for parents**
- **SAFETY, HYGIENIC, and DISTANCING** protocols will be strictly enforced in **IN-PERSON** environments
 - At-home support is crucial to implementing these protocols
- At any point, based on circumstances, the District may have to be in fully-REMOTE mode

Options for Parents - **HYBRID**

- Students in this model will be assigned to one of two groups
 - Siblings and members of the same household (K-12) will be in the same group
- One group will attend school, IN-PERSON, on Tuesday and Thursday each week. These students will be REMOTE on Wednesday and Friday
- A second group will attend school, IN-PERSON, on Wednesday and Friday each week. These students will be REMOTE on Tuesday and Thursday
- Every Monday will be a fully REMOTE day for both groups
 - Why?
 - To keep students **connected** with their entire class (this day will include REMOTE option students as well)
 - To “set the stage” for the upcoming week
 - To engage in full group (remote) activities
 - The school calendar has more holidays on Mondays...this preserves in-person days
- Remote days will include continued remote work with classmates on projects and assessments

Options for Parents - **HYBRID** (continued)

- A daily **SCREENING** of students is required each day
 - Parents must do this at home
 - A **SCREENING PROTOCOL** will be provided
 - Students who do not meet the criteria **MUST** stay home until they pass the criteria (they can engage **REMOTELY**)
 - Students who feel sick **MUST** stay home
 - If a student becomes symptomatic / sick at school, parents must be able to provide transportation back home
- **FACE COVERINGS / MASKS** will be **REQUIRED** (the District has purchased some masks and PPE). The following bullet points outline overarching guiding principles regarding masks
 - This is non-negotiable
 - There will be certain times where masks are not required (where appropriate distancing can be maintained and classroom activities are safe for this). This is school and schedule dependent
 - Mask-breaks will be a strategic part of each in-person day
 - Parents / students who do not feel they can comply, must choose the **REMOTE** option
 - Clear guidelines for / from each school will outline mandatory mask protocols
- Schools will be **CLEANED** and sanitized on a daily basis

Options for Parents - **HYBRID** (continued)

- Classroom furniture (tables and desks) will be distanced
 - Goal = 6-feet of distancing between student seats
 - All desks will face the FRONT of the room
- Teachers / and students (if appropriate and safe) may assist in sanitizing hard surfaces in the classroom (via disinfectant wipes)
- All classrooms will have hand sanitizing stations available
- Schedules will attempt to minimize student movement and passing time
- Necessary passing times will be staggered
 - **FACE COVERINGS / MASKS** will be **REQUIRED** during passing time
- There will be no “common areas” for student congregations
 - Cafeterias may be used for distanced classroom instruction and small / distanced dining, but “typical” use of cafeterias will not happen
 - Library/Media Center access will be controlled via classroom teachers

Potential **REMOTE** scenarios

- **Preferred model** - the District is able to form an “**online division**” of teachers and support staff
 - Students at each grade-level (who choose REMOTE) will be assigned to a fully remote instructor
 - The remote instructors will engage 5-days/week with their remote students and families
 - These students and instructors will connect with grade level peers (HYBRID / IN-PERSON) on Remote Mondays
- Teachers manage concurrent **REMOTE** and **HYBRID / IN-PERSON** groups
 - Extra planning and preparation time is built into the school day / week
 - Puts a lot of extra work on teachers
- Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (**VLACS**)
 - During this pandemic, students and families may choose VLACS
 - VLACS may not be available for ALL (K-12) grade levels
 - This option will be separate from the scope and sequence of MVSD learning (may be difficult to transition back to MVSD...but it is possible!)
- Ideally, we would prefer to keep our students in-District and connected to their peers

Options for Parents - REMOTE

- This option will be more **streamlined** and **augmented** from last spring
 - Scheduled synchronous (live) instruction along with asynchronous responsibilities
 - Consistent use of platforms
 - Daily responsibilities and deadlines
- Teacher groups have been working hard to improve REMOTE strategies, platforms, and assessments
- Potential remote strategies:
 - REMOTE students will be assigned / connected to one of the two HYBRID groups
 - REMOTE students may watch the “LIVE STREAM” of the direct instruction (as is appropriate and based on scheduling) on the days their HYBRID peers are physically at school
 - REMOTE students may be involved in some of the group activities that occur with their HYBRID peers (using technology)
 - REMOTE resources will be posted to Google Classroom on a daily basis
- Students in this model will be accountable to daily participation and deadlines

REMOTE Mondays* (for all students)

- All students are required to engage in Remote Mondays
- Teachers and support staff will report to their buildings on Remote Mondays
- A schedule for each building / class will be developed
- Teachers will be afforded time each Monday to develop and further plan for remote instruction and assessment as well as time to collaborate with administration and colleagues
- Remote Mondays will include whole class as well as individual and group meetings as needed
- Classes will work with their teachers to establish REMOTE learning classroom procedures and expectations

* *These are draft / guiding thoughts for Remote Mondays. Some appropriate variations will occur by level*

Additional Considerations and Caveats

- Students in highly specialized programs will have the option of 5-day/week in-person schooling
 - These programs are limited to 12-students per classroom
 - As is appropriate and safe, students will also be included in-person with peers
 - Students may require specialized and unique services as outlined in Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
 - FACE COVERINGS, HYGIENIC practices, DISTANCING, and additional PPE will be included in these programs with appropriate medical exemptions
 - Daily SCREENINGS are still mandatory
- Merrimack Valley Learning Center (MVLC)
 - The MVLC facility and classrooms allow for a great degree of physical distancing
 - FACE COVERINGS, HYGIENIC practices, and DISTANCING will be enforced
 - This program will offer 5-day/week in person schooling OR remote (with MVHS peer groups)
 - No HYBRID option
 - Daily SCREENINGS are still mandatory

Some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What happens if a positive COVID case is identified among the faculty, staff, or students?
 - A response protocol (informed by CDC and STRRT recommendations has been developed)
- Will FACE COVERINGS (MASKS) be REQUIRED?
 - Yes. However, strategic breaks and non-mandatory instances will be available
 - Detailed plans for each school will be developed
- Will PHYSICAL-DISTANCING be enforced?
 - Yes
- SCREENING protocols?
 - The District will share a protocol with parents (for daily student screenings)
 - Employees will also be screened on a daily basis
- What happens if students or adults do not follow safety protocols?
 - Adults will be handled via personnel protocols
 - Students adherence will be handled at each school
 - Schools need parent/home partnership to enforce these behaviors

Some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs...continued)

- Can a parent/student change their option?
 - The first reconsideration date will be in October 2020
- Will school hours be adjusted?
 - Yes. To allow for concurrent REMOTE and HYBRID / IN-PERSON models
- What if there is a surge in NH?
 - All stakeholders (students, parents, teachers...) must be prepared to go fully REMOTE if circumstances dictate
- Can employees choose to work from home?
 - Certain federal and employment statutes intersect with this question. Simply stated, the District is committed to work with employee groups. Considerations include if responsibilities can be performed remotely or if remote work opens options for students and parents
- What if an employee or immediate family member is immunocompromised?
 - Again, federal and employment statutes intersect with this question
 - Medical documentation will be required
- Will fall sports happen?
 - NHIAA has made this a local decision. The District is attempting to allow volunteer sports to happen

COVID Response Protocol* (from STRRT guidance)

- Coordinate communications with public health officials to notify staff and families, in accordance with proper legal and privacy rights
- Inform students, families, and staff about the possible symptoms of COVID-19
- Advise sick staff members and students not to return to school until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 and are feeling better, or have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation
- Inform those who have close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to cooperate with State or local public health officials and to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their last exposure to the person with COVID-19, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not develop symptoms, follow appropriate CDC and state public health guidance for home quarantine and testing after an identified COVID-19 exposure
- Per CDC, the impacted building may be closed for 2-5 days
- Impacted students and staff will go to REMOTE learning
- Provide guidance to parents, teachers and staff reminding them of the importance of physical distancing and good hygiene practices

** The District is working on a decision matrix, based on regional COVID data and trends*

Screening Protocol - DRAFT

DAILY EMPLOYEE / STUDENT PROTOCOL / COVID - 19

DRAFT - June/July - 2020

1. EACH EMPLOYEE MUST TAKE THEIR TEMPERATURE WITHIN 90 MINUTES PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT WORK EVERY DAY. A RECORD MUST BE MAINTAINED AND MUST BE PROVIDED IF REQUESTED BY THE DISTRICT.
2. PARENTS MUST TAKE THEIR STUDENT(S) TEMPERATURE EACH MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL.
3. IF THE EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT EXHIBITS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS, THE EMPLOYEE MUST STAY HOME AND MUST NOTIFY THEIR SUPERVISOR OF THEIR SYMPTOMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 - Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath (unknown origin)
 - Flu-like symptoms such as headache, muscle aches, chills, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or severe fatigue
 - Changes in a person's sense of taste or smell
 - Fever of 100.0 F or greater or felt feverish within prior 72 hours
4. IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SCREENING CRITERIA APPLIES, THE EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT MUST STAY HOME AND NOTIFY THEIR SUPERVISOR / TEACHER (OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
 - I or a household family member have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - I have had contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
 - If you plan to engage in, or have engaged in activities, that may place you at higher risk of infection please contact your supervisor before reporting to work.

Next Steps

- After Board approval of an opening framework
 - After Board approval of an opening framework
 - Send another survey to parents (with further details) asking them to confirm their choice and transportation option (target = week of 7.27 - 7.31)
 - This survey will include a requested “reply by” date - to give the schools time to plan
 - Connect and collaborate with employee unions to finalize options, processes, and details
 - Determine our personnel resources and capabilities for the REMOTE option
 - Building-level teams will be organized and empowered to craft local processes and protocols
 - Continued monitoring of guidance from medical, federal, state, and local organizations
 - Continued monitoring of COVID cases in NH and region
 - Teacher groups continue to work on REMOTE learning strategies and assessments
 - Plan for OPEN HOUSE options (8.31 - 9.4)
 - Continue to stock the school buildings with PPE and cleaning supplies
 - Prepare schools for HYBRID pupil attendance
 - Establish DEVICE pickup processes
 -and MUCH MORE!

Thank you!



Phased-in Approach to Safely Reopening Schools

Approved - 7.23.2020 by the Merrimack Valley School Board

Stay tuned for further outreach and communication from the District and schools